a standard form of checking the accounts submitted by the company. Cost Data submitted by the urea units is subjected to various checks like notifications giving the details about the increase/decrease in prices of inputs, supporting invoices and applying the general principles of accounting and arithmetical accuracy. Allocation of costs are cross checked for accuracy and internal consistency from various sources like annual balance sheet and annual cost data.

New drug for diabetes

4320. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem, "New drug holds out hope for diabetes", appearing in the Times of India dated the 9th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the new therapy and whether Government are satisfied about the efficacy of the new drug ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to give a wide publicity to medicine and permit large scale commercial sale/use thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been reported that the drug "Simvastatin" may help to prevent the progress of diabetes related eye ailments. The drug 'Simvastatin' is already available in the country as lipid lowering agent.

Co-ordination Committee on problems of Fertilizer Industry

†4321. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a Co-ordination Committee during the last month, for extensive consideration of problems of fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to Government; and

(c) the action taken by Government so far, on the basis of the report of that Committee?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Inter-Ministry controversy over drug price control.

4322. SHRI ABANI ROY :

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tussle between the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, on the issue of reducing price control on drugs continues, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th August, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have been adopting any formula in fixing the prices of essential life saving drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether drug companies in the private sector would be controlled by Government, in so far as pricing is concerned; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) There is no tussle between the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Health and Family Welfare on the issue of reducing price control on drugs.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

(d) Prices notified or fixed by the Government are applicable to manufacturers irrespective of whether they are in the private sector or in the public sector.

Compensation amount of Bhopal gas tragedy

†4323. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received, so far, by Government as compensation from the Union Carbide Limited, for the Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) the amount spent, item-wise, so far, out of the amount received;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.